

DEBATE

ON THE

CONVENTION QUESTION.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

JANUARY 14, 1832.

The House being in Committee of the whole, Mr. W. H. HAYWOOD in the Chair, the Preamble and Resolutions, which had been introduced by Mr. WHITAKER, from the County of Macon, some days ago, were read : which were as follows :

WHEREAS many of the good people of North-Carolina entertain the opinion that the Constitution of the State is defective in some of its fundamental provisions, and requires amendment ; more especially in the present mode of Representation, which instead of being on the just and equitable basis of taxation and population, is according to counties, unequal in size and greatly disproportionate in wealth and numbers:

AND WHEREAS, local jealousies and divisions, growing out of this state of things, have for many years existed among the people, distracting the councils of the State, and obstructing liberal and wholesome legislation—a condition of things which the character and prosperity of the State loudly require should be removed from among us, that we may become *one people*, possessing common rights, and influenced by a common principle.

AND WHEREAS, many of the good people of this State entertain the opinion, that the Seat of Government should be removed to some place uniting more advantages than the City of Raleigh : Therefore, for the purpose of removing these defects, on principles of compromise and mutual concession, and with a view of restoring good feeling among our citizens, and harmony in the councils of the General Assembly :

Be it Resolved, by the General Assembly of the State, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that it is expedient to call a Convention of the free-men of North-Carolina, for the purpose of considering the propriety of amending the Constitution of the State, and also of removing the Seat of Government.

Resolved further, that it shall be the duty of the Sheriffs of the several counties in this State, on the day of next, after twenty days notice, to open polls at the places where elections are usually held in their respective counties, under the same rules and regulations, as elections for members of the General Assembly are now held ; and all free white men over the age of 21 years, having been citizens of the State twelve months immediately preceding the day of election, are requested to attend said polls, and vote for Delegates to a Convention.

And be it further Resolved, that the Delegates so chosen, shall be distributed among the several counties as follows, the same being on the basis of federal numbers, that is to say :—the counties of Ashe, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Carteret, Currituck, Chowan, Camden, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Haywood, Jones, Lenoir, Macon, Martin, Nash, Onslow, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Robeson, Tyrrell, and Washington, each one Delegate—the counties of Anson, Bertie, Beaufort, Ca-